

U.S. Small Business Administration



NEWS RELEASE

PRESS OFFICE

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SBA CO-SPONSORS NATIONAL SATELLITE CONFERENCE ON FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR WOMEN BUSINESS OWNERS

WASHINGTON -- *"Funded to Win: Creative Ways to Finance Your Business,"* the third in a series of national satellite conferences designed to help women entrepreneurs develop winning small business strategies, will be held Monday, November 16. The satellite conference will provide information on how to work with a bank, where to get assistance, venture capital and U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) guaranteed loan programs.

"This conference presents women business owners with an excellent opportunity to grow and learn from fellow entrepreneurs and to share their knowledge and experience with colleagues," said SBA Administrator Aída Alvarez.

Sherrye Henry, assistant administrator for the SBA's Office of Women's Business Ownership said the conference will give women valuable information on accessing sources of capital and credit to start and grow their businesses. "We want to inform women business owners of existing programs that address their needs and provide a guide for those seeking capital," she said.

The conference will feature representatives from the SBA's financial assistance office, banking industry executives and entrepreneurs who will share their experiences securing capital for business management and growth. The participants include:

Jane Butler, Associate Administrator for Financial Assistance
U.S. Small Business Administration

Mitch Baden, President, Business Banking
Mercantile Bank N.A.

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March Braun, Attorney
The Stolar Partnership

Marsha Serlin, Founder/President & CEO
United Scrap Metal, Inc.

The conference program includes a question and answer session with the studio audience and call-in participants. Co-sponsors of the series include the investment firm Edward Jones, IBM, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the American Business Women's Association, SBA's Office of Women's Business Ownership, and SBA's resource partners – the Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE) and the Small Business Development Center Program.

Women business owners can participate in the satellite conference through 4,000 Edward Jones locations, in addition to many of the nearly 1,000 SBA-sponsored Small Business Development Centers nationwide. Chambers of commerce, business councils and other organizations interested in

receiving the downlink should contact Edward Jones. The conference will be broadcast nationwide at **7:30 p.m. (EST)** and is free of charge. Seating is limited. To find the satellite locations nearest you and to reserve your seat, call **1-800-441-1384** or visit the Edward Jones and IBM websites at **www.edwardjones.com** or **www.ibm.com**.

For more information on SBA programs and services, contact the **SBA Answer Desk** at **1-800-8-ASK-SBA** or visit the agency's website at **www.sba.gov**.

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The U.S. Small Business Administration, established in 1953, provides financial, technical and management assistance to help Americans start, run, and grow their businesses. With a portfolio of business loans, loan guarantees and disaster loans worth more than \$45 billion, SBA is the nation's largest single financial backer of small businesses. Last year, the SBA offered management and technical assistance to more than one million small business owners. The SBA also plays a major role in the government's disaster relief efforts by making low-interest recovery loans to both homeowners and businesses.

America's 23 million small businesses employ more than 50 percent of the private workforce, generate more than half of the nation's gross domestic product, and are the principal source of new jobs in the U.S. economy.

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